

## STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 35

### *1 Year Later, Department of Energy Has No Jobs to Show for \$58 Million Spent on Rhode Island Weatherization*

- The U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program was awarded almost \$5 billion in Stimulus funds to have "homes tuned-up by energy experts." The White House boasted the program would create a "huge number of new jobs," while targeting 590,000 homes for weatherization updates.
- Rhode Island, among other states, received \$58 million in Stimulus money for the Weatherization Assistance Program. Yet, they and 4 other states have not distributed a single penny on the program. To date, less than 8 percent of the \$4.73 billion appropriated for the entire project has actually been used.
- Gregory Friedman, inspector general of the Department of Energy, noted his disappointment, saying: **"The job-creation impact of what was considered to be one of the department's most 'shovel ready' projects has not materialized."** Part of the problem has been both anti-competitive Davis-Bacon regulations and state hiring freezes.
- Under the House Republican Stimulus Alternative, \$5 billion in taxpayer funds would not be spent on non-job creating projects. Instead, Republicans would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost. To learn how visit:  
<http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Jobs/>

#### Sources:

[http://www.projo.com/news/content/Slow\\_weatherization\\_03-01-10\\_9UHJH7U\\_v11.38af6e5.html](http://www.projo.com/news/content/Slow_weatherization_03-01-10_9UHJH7U_v11.38af6e5.html)

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/Weatherization-New-Jobs-for-Americans-Help-for-Families-in-Need>

The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip's website: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/blog/wwindex.html>

It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus.